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General Assembly

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Agenda item 56 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/64/423/Add.2)]

64/214. Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/201 of 23 December 2003, 60/208 of 22 December 2005, 61/212 of 20 December 2006, 62/204 of 19 December 2007 and 63/228 of 19 December 2008,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2]

Recalling further the Almaty Declaration[3] and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[4]

Recalling its resolution 63/2 of 3 October 2008, by which it adopted the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action,

Taking note of the Communiqué of the Eighth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, held at United Nations Headquarters on 25 September 2009,[5]

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See resolution 60/1.

[3] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex II.

[4] Ibid., annex I.

[5] A/C.2/64/4, annex.

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Recalling the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[6] an initiative for accelerating regional economic cooperation and development, as many landlocked and transit developing countries are located in Africa,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks continue to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affect their overall growth and socio-economic development,

Expressing support to those landlocked developing countries that are emerging from conflict, with a view to enabling them to rehabilitate and reconstruct, as appropriate, political, social and economic infrastructure and to assisting them in achieving their development priorities in accordance with the goals and targets of the Almaty Programme of Action,

Recognizing that the primary responsibility for establishing effective transit systems rests with the landlocked and transit developing countries,

Reaffirming that the Almaty Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for genuine partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional and global levels,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;[7]

2. *Reaffirms* the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit countries by all means of transport, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law;

3. *Also reaffirms* that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries in no way infringe upon their legitimate interests;

4. *Calls upon* landlocked and transit developing countries to take all appropriate measures, as set out in the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action,[8] to speed up the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;[4]

5. *Reaffirms its full commitment* to address urgently the special development needs of and challenges faced by the landlocked developing countries through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, as contained in the Declaration on the midterm review;

6. *Invites* Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and multilateral financial and development institutions to accelerate the implementation of the specific actions in the five priorities agreed upon in the Almaty Programme of Action and those contained in the Declaration on the midterm review;

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[6] A/57/304, annex.

[7] A/64/268.

[8] See resolution 63/2.

7. *Acknowledges* that landlocked and transit developing countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America have strengthened their policy and governance reform efforts and that donor countries, financial and development institutions and international and regional organizations have paid greater attention to the establishment of efficient transit systems;

8. *Notes with concern* that, despite the progress made, landlocked developing countries continue to be marginalized in international trade, which prevents them from fully harnessing the potential of trade as an engine of sustained economic growth and development, and face challenges in their efforts to establish efficient transit transport systems and achieve their development goals, including the internationally agreed development goals and the Millennium Development Goals;

9. *Expresses concern* that the economic growth and social well-being of landlocked developing countries remain very vulnerable to external shocks and to the multiple challenges the international community faces, and stresses the need for the international community to enhance development assistance to landlocked developing countries;

10. *Calls upon* donors and multilateral and regional financial and development institutions to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with appropriate, substantial and better-coordinated technical and financial assistance, particularly in the form of grants or concessionary loans, for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes, completion of missing links and improved communications, so as to promote subregional, regional and interregional projects and programmes;

11. *Stresses* the need to attract private investment, including foreign direct investment, and that private sector participation through co-financing can play a catalytic role in this regard, and recalls that, notwithstanding the increase of flows in foreign direct investment, private sector involvement in infrastructure development still has considerable potential;

12. *Underscores* the importance of international trade and trade facilitation as one of the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action, and notes that the ongoing World Trade Organization Doha Round negotiations on trade facilitation, particularly on the relevant articles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, such as those referred to in the Declaration on the midterm review, are important for landlocked developing countries to gain a more efficient flow of goods and services as well as improved international competitiveness resulting from lower transaction costs;

13. *Calls upon* the development partners to effectively operationalize the Aid for Trade Initiative so as to support trade facilitation measures and trade-related technical assistance, as well as the diversification of export products through the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and private-sector involvement in landlocked developing countries;

14. *Encourages* the international community to enhance efforts to facilitate access to and encourage the transfer of technologies related to transit transport systems, including information and communications technology;

15. *Encourages* the further strengthening of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation with the involvement of donors, as well as cooperation among subregional and regional organizations, in support of the efforts of

landlocked and transit developing countries towards achieving the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

16. *Encourages* landlocked and transit developing countries to pursue the harmonization of trade and transit transport facilitation procedures and to continue to make efforts to accede to relevant multilateral conventions in the area of transit transport and trade;

17. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, the regional commissions, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and invites other international organizations, including the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization, regional economic integration organizations, and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, to further integrate the Almaty Programme of Action into their relevant programmes of work, taking full account of the Declaration on the midterm review, and encourages them to continue, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, their support to the landlocked and transit developing countries, inter alia, through well-coordinated and coherent technical assistance programmes in transit transport and trade facilitation;

18. *Encourages* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to continue to ensure coordinated follow-up to and effective monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, in line with General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, and to step up its advocacy efforts directed towards raising international awareness and mobilizing resources, as well as to further develop cooperation and coordination with organizations within the United Nations system in order to ensure the timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the Declaration on the midterm review;

19. *Welcomes* the establishment of the international think tank for the landlocked developing countries in Ulaanbaatar to enhance analytical capability within landlocked developing countries and to promote the exchange of experiences and best practices needed to maximize their coordinated efforts for the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals, and invites the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, Member States, as well as relevant international and regional organizations, to assist the landlocked developing countries in implementing the activities of the international think tank;

20. *Encourages* donors and the international financial and development institutions, as well as private entities, to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General to support the activities related to the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the Almaty International Ministerial Conference;[3]

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session an analytical report on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the Declaration on the midterm review;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the sub-item entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation".

66th plenary meeting
21 December 2009